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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

DATE:

SUBJECT Lignite Mines in the Senftenberg Area

INFO:

DIST. 5 April 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT 25X1A

ORIGIN
25X1X

Germany

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1. Dismantling of the lignite mines in Senftenberg (A34) was started in November 1946. By February 1947 the following mines were completely dismantled: Viktoria, Marianne I, Marianne II, and Sedlitz Ost. The above mines had the most modern equipment of any mines in the Lausitz coal region, particularly the modern "Förderbrücken", which not only dug out the coal but also leveled off the terrain. These mines have been dismantled "down to the last piece of machinery". The Sedlitz Ost is now under water. From 7,000 to 9,000 workers took part in the dismantling and loading of equipment.
2. Dismantling also extended to the briquette factories. The briquette factory "Freienhufen" was dismantled by the beginning of February; only three old briquette presses are left there. These three presses do not represent more than twenty percent of the former capacity of this factory.
3. "many" chemical factories and enterprises which used to process the by-products of briquette manufacture are now dismantled.
4. On 10 February 1947 dismantling of additional mines situated between Senftenberg and Finsterwalde (A15) was begun. This concerned mainly the Marianne and the Wemmenhopf (sic) mines.
5. With the exception of the Sedlitz Ost mine, where the flooding makes further operation impossible, work has been resumed in the dismantled mines by using machinery assembled from old installations. The output in these mines in February 1947 equaled four percent of the output at the beginning of November 1946. Mining engineers estimate that it will take from four to five years to reach fifty percent of the 1938 production. The refitting of the dismantled briquette factories will take even more time.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2013

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6. [REDACTED] states that six lignite mines in the Senftenberg area are now being dismantled. The production in these mines during 1946 amounted to 12,500,000 tons of lignite, "which yielded 3,750,000 tons of briquettes". This equals 25X1X percent of the 1938 production.

[REDACTED] estimates the loss of production in seven lignite mines to be dismantled in the spring of 1947 at 1,800,000 tons of lignite and 750,000 tons of lignite briquettes.

7. [REDACTED] the completion of dismantling of the Clara IV mine, Fabriken I and II, in December 1946.

8. [REDACTED] Dr. (fnu) Ratjen and Director Rätzer, the former director of the Allgemeine Transport Gesellschaft in Leipzig, are now employed in Leipzig in the main office of the Soviet AG for Fuel Industry.

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[REDACTED] comment: * is probably Niederlausitzer Kohlenwerke Grube Viktoria II and ** probably Anna Mathilde Grube Ilse G.m.b.H.)

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